

**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

**State Capitol, Room 113**

**Sacramento, CA**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**October 21, 2004**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Nancy E. McFadden, Chair  
Thomas Calderon  
Diane M. Griffiths  
Teresa P. Hughes  
Vicki Marti  
Lynn Schenk  
Michael R. Yamaki

**CMAC STAFF PRESENT**

J. Keith Berger, Executive Director  
Enid Barnes  
Theresa Bueno  
Paul Cerles  
Denise DeTrano  
Holland Golec  
Shivani Nath  
Steve Soto  
Mervin Tamai  
Karen Thalhammer

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bob Sands, Department of Finance  
Sunni Burns, Department of Health Services

**I. Call to Order**

The October 21, 2004 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Nancy E. McFadden. A quorum was present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The October 7, 2004 meeting minutes were approved as amended.

### **III. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Berger reported that there were no new requests by hospitals or health plans to appear before the Commission in closed session at this time.

Mr. Berger informed the Commission that there are 73 amendments for action in today's closed session including the initial set of SB 1255 Round 17A amendments.

Mr. Berger indicated that representatives from the Department of Health Services (DHS) and CMAC traveled to Baltimore last week to meet with technical staff of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to discuss the key issues of the hospital refinancing proposal.

Mr. Berger asked Sunni Burns, Acting Chief for the Medi-Cal Operations Division of the Department of Health Services, to give the Commission a brief update of the meetings that took place in Baltimore.

Ms. Burns informed the Commission that the meetings in Baltimore were productive. Ms. Burns noted that federal staff has requested more information on a number of issues regarding the Medi-Cal Redesign proposed concept and that DHS and CMAC are preparing their responses for the follow-up meeting scheduled for the week of November 8 with both CMS and OMB.

In response to Commissioner Calderon's question regarding Los Angeles (LA) County and its impact into the CMS negotiations. Ms. Burns stated that the meeting was strictly with CMS, OMB, CMAC, and DHS and did not include LA or any other county. Mr. Berger added that the federal government would like to deal with the State as a whole, and that the proposed 1115-waiver program includes all the counties in California.

Ms. Burns stated that the key issue is budget neutrality, and that CMS wants to make sure that Medi-Cal Redesign is not going to cost the federal government more than it would otherwise.

Mr. Berger informed the Commission that the six-month extension for the SPCP waiver requested by DHS has been approved by CMS. Mr. Berger noted that the extension will take the SPCP program through June 30, 2005. He further noted that the extension will give DHS time to work through the issues of the Medi-Cal Redesign efforts.

Mr. Berger informed the Commission that CMAC staff had had some conversations with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP) regarding the current status of the seismic safety program, and asked the Commissioners if they would be interested in having OSHDP give the Commission a presentation on the topic of seismic safety.

Commissioner Schenk indicated that she would be very interested in having OSHPD talk to the Commission about the seismic safety program in the hospitals.

Chair McFadden asked if staff could determine a date that would work for both CMAC and OSHPD. She also requested that once a date is set that staff inform the public of OSHPD's scheduled appearance.

#### **IV. Medi-Cal Managed Care Activities**

Mr. Paul Cerles, Supervising Negotiator at CMAC, informed the Commissioners that there are a number of contract amendments for action at today's meeting in closed session. He noted that CMAC has received a list of interested health plans from DHS for Sacramento Geographic Managed Care (GMC) for both medical and dental services. CMAC is preparing for negotiations of new contracts starting January 1, 2005.

As for current negotiations, CMAC is waiting for one additional piece of information from DHS for contracts to be ready for Commission action in November or December.

#### **V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment**

There being no further new business and no additional comments from the public, Chair Nancy E. McFadden recessed the open session. Chair McFadden opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair McFadden announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital contracts and amendments along with SB 1255 Round 17A amendments in closed session. At this time the Commissioners discussed attendance conflicts with the upcoming November 4 meeting, but it was determined that the November 4 meeting will take place as scheduled. The open session was then adjourned.